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P9, Bill 13, CD2

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Re: Support to the Amendment for the Grants in Aid bill 13 (Appendix B5) to provide Grant in Aid funding to Surfrider Spirit Sessions

Erick Jaimes, Program Coordinator, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii SNAP E&T Oahu Program

Dear Members of the City & Council

I am writing to support the Amendment to the Grants in Aid bill 13 (Appendix B5) to provide grant in aid funding to Surfrider Spirit Sessions.

I have personally worked with the Surfrider Spirit Sessions program within the past and had personal experience working with teenagers who are at risk. I truly believe that this program offers proper guidance and mentorship to youth in which other program and services in Hawaii are unable to provide.

As a human service professional, I have had the opportunity to work with individuals and families who are poverty stricken and chronically at risk of being homeless. My profession is to help break the cycle of generational poverty to those who are suffering from financial encumbrances. In my observation, most individuals are unable to break the cycle of because of their lack of education and proper mentorship to self-sufficiency.

I truly believe that Surfrider Spirit Sessions program helps to alleviate this societal detriment. This program proactively educates youth of breaking the mentality of generational poverty through proper mentorship. This program gives at-risk teenagers the ability to learn and benefit from individual mentorship and also learn that surfing can be used as a tool to life's challenges.

Sincerely,

Erick Jaimes